THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) HSL has entered into an agreement with M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai for construction of 2 + 2 Nos. of 30,000 DWT and 6 Nos. 53,000 DWT blilkers as per the details given hereunder:

Type of Vessel	Contract signed on	Contractual Price of Vessel	Delivery Schedule
1st 30,000 DWT vessel	21.05.2004		24 months
2nd 30,000 DWT vessel		US$ 17.514 Million per vessel	30 months
3rd 30,000 DWT vessel			36 months
4th 30,000 DWT vessel	03.01.2005		40 months
1st 53,000 DWT Vessel			28 months
2nd 53,000 DWT Vessel	08.04.2005	US$ 25.5303 Million per vessel	36 months
3rd 53,000 DWT Vessel			42 months
4th 53,000 DWT Vessel			48 months
5th 53,000 DWT Vessel			54 months
6th 53,000 DWT Vessel			60 months

2. As regards the international rate of such capacity bulkers, HSL has informed that in 2004 a similar ship of 30,000 DWT bulker would not have been more than US $ 17.5-18 million.

3. As regards 53,000 DWT bulkers, the new building prices for 45-55,000 DWT bulk carriers is reported to be US $ 32 million per vessels during April, 2005. As informed by HSL, it is getting a price of US $ 34.2106 million including VAT and Subsidy.

Changes in working of MMD

1316. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set by Government for 2007-08 to bring in changes in the way the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) functions under D.G. Shipping;

(b) whether minor changes have been proposed to reduce delays and whimsical demands of surveyors;

(c) how many ports have MMD offices to do surveys;

(d) the safeguards that would be instituted to reduce arbitrariness, delays, needless demands, expensive surveys and harassment for small companies and people; and

(e) the reasons for not bringing about any changes in MMD to develop shipping and maritime sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) There are 5 Regional level Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) offices and 13 District level MMD offices including newly created Regional offices at Kochi and Kandla and 3 District level offices of MMD at Paradip, New Mangalore and Haldia which have been set up in January, 2006 covering all the major ports in the country. The Mercantile Marine Departments administer various Merchant Shipping Laws and Rules under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and IMO conventions including survey and inspection of ships. With a view to modernizing and streamlining the functioning of the Mercantile Marine Departments and also ensuring efficiency and transparency, Government have taken the following steps:

(i) A Citizen Charter providing the details of various functions and target periods within which various services are to be rendered to the shipping industry without causing any inconvenience and delay has been made available at all mercantile marine Departments and on the website of Directorate General of Shipping.

(ii) A number of surveys and inspections have been assigned to recognize classification societies *vide* this Department's notification published in the Gazette of India-Extraordinary S.O. No.640(E) dated 27th May, 2004.

(iii) A redressal mechanism has been set up to look into the genuine complaints of the shipping industry. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 has provisions for appeals by shipping companies against unsatisfactory surveys and inspections. Such appeals can be made in the Indian ports as well as abroad.

(iv) With the introduction of an e-Governance programme for the Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai, Directorate General of Shipping and allied offices, most of the facilitative and regulatory approvals can be applied online by intending enterprises. Further, an online redressal system has also been introduced in order to reduce delays in the disposal of complaints.

(v) A quality management system with the objective of providing quick and timely service to the shipping industry has been introduced in the Directorate General of Shipping.

In addition to above, the Right to Information Act has been implemented in letter and spirit thereby ensuring greater transparency to public. There is a well laid down redressal mechanism which includes on line submission of grievances directly to the Directorate General of Shipping. Customer friendly forms have been developed and are available on the website. Most of the services can be availed by online submission of forms.